

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



Greenbelt pioneers, p. 7

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VOL. 87, No. 5

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 21, 2023

Judith "J" Davis Leaves Long Legacy of Momentum, Growth

by Lois Rosado



Ingrid Watson presents J Davis with a proclamation of appreciation from the Prince George's County Council at Davis' final council meeting in November.

Judith "J" Davis served the City of Greenbelt for almost 50 years. Thirty of those were on Greenbelt's City Council, where she was the city's longest-serving mayor and a councilmember until this year, when she decided not to run for re-election. Previously, she served on the Advisory Planning Board for 10 years and was chair for four years. The News Review spoke with her about her long tenure and legacy.

Over the years Davis was instrumental in the growth of our city, and according to her, the city is still moving in a positive

direction. When asked to identify areas that she personally assisted with, she said that it was always a group effort, not an individual one. In fact, in all of her statements, she always says, "We were able to accomplish."

However, among Davis' areas of particular interest and contributions were the preservation of the Community Center's historic flagpole, helping council see the wisdom of Greenbelt becoming a Sustainable Maryland Certified City.

See **DAVIS**, page 8

Girl Scouts from Troop 23007 Win Silver Awards for Projects

by Holly Wheeler

One of the fundamental principles of the Girl Scout Law is to make the world a better place. And in the past year, nine Girl Scouts from Greenbelt Troop 23007 have done exactly that – and earned their Girl Scout Silver Award in the process. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the second highest achievement awarded by Girl Scouts USA. Working either individually or in small teams, scouts identify issues of concern; brainstorm potential projects that would allow them to address the concern; develop project proposals, including all necessary tasks, appropriate community partners and funding; and then implement the projects. All Silver Award projects must be approved by the area Girl Scout Council and completed by the time the scout enters high school.

Between April and August 2023, Girl Scouts in Greenbelt Troop 23007 completed four Silver Award projects.



Anna Grim, left, and Lien Gareri plant trees to reforest an area at Buddy Atlick Park.

were concerned with the loss of natural forest cover and the associated loss of wildlife habitat in Maryland. They met with City of Greenbelt staff to identify areas in Greenbelt that were severely damaged by storms in 2022 and in need of forest recovery. With the help of a

See **SCOUTS**, page 9

Council Hears Request from PSAC To Review Officer-Involved Shootings

by Diane Oberg

On Monday, December 4, the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) met with the Greenbelt City Council for a periodic review. After a brief discussion of the group's activities since their last meeting with council two years ago, Mayor Emmett Jordan set the tone for the rest of the meeting, noting increasing crime, especially juvenile crime, carjackings and gun violence. Among the issues raised were PSAC's ability to review a 2022 officer-involved shooting, youth crime and the conflict between the desire for increased security

cameras and resident privacy.

2022 Shooting

One issue came up several times throughout the meeting. PSAC Chair Peggy Higgins noted that in February 2023, the committee asked to review a police-involved shooting that occurred in May 2022. Later in the meeting, Bill Orleans, of Crescent Road, brought up the issue again, noting his understanding that the police department, while permitting PSAC members to view body camera footage, prohibited them from reporting on what they saw.

Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers said the department's concern, shared by the city solicitor and the then interim city manager, was with the safety of the person who was shot. He was in a mental health crisis, Bowers said, and subject to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) limitations on disclosure of this information. He said that any report by PSAC contrary to the official findings could put the city at risk of civil liability.

See **PSAC**, page 10

Shop With A Cop Brings Holiday Cheer to Greenbelt Children

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Saturday, December 16, Greenbelt Police Officers spent the morning shopping at Target with preselected students from Springhill Lake Elementary and Greenbelt Elementary schools for their annual Shop With A Cop event. They met at Target at 8:30 a.m. and kicked off the day with hot chocolate and cookies. The children were given a budget from which to purchase a gift for their parent, guardian or siblings, and the remainder for purchases for themselves.

After shopping, the children enjoyed a ride in police cruisers to the Greenbelt Volunteer

Fire Department with their lights and sirens on. At the firehouse they enjoyed a great lunch with officers and got some help wrapping up their gifts.

"Captain Gulledge along with his Community Action Team members spent a lot of time organizing and managing everything. Thanks to the sponsorship that we received, we were able to plan for 28 kids, and we hope to increase the number next year," Public Information Officer Ricardo Dennis of the Greenbelt Police Department told the News Review. "Our officers were delighted to volunteer for this event. I believe they enjoyed it



A police officer shops at Target with a student during Shop With A Cop on December 16.

as much as the children did," said Dennis.

See **SHOP**, page 12



On Monday, December 18, the Greenbelt Runners took to the streets around Historic Greenbelt, singing carols, for their Holiday Lights Run. Pictured from left (back) are: Natalie Bailey, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Lloyd Rawley, Amber Hennessy and (front) Polly O'Rourke, Zoc Phillips and Bernard Kelly. Their five-mile festive route began and ended at the Christmas tree in Roosevelt Center, encompassed Lakeside, Ridge Road, Boxwood Village and Crescent Road and involved stops at a handful of houses.

Editorial

Carrier Tip Alert

Recently your News Review carrier delivered a tip envelope to your door with the newspaper. Many thanks to those who made use of it already to tip their carrier.

If you haven't yet done so, please consider that our carriers are paid only a nominal amount for delivery and that the end of year tip is important to them – they use it to save for college or fund expeditions.

Our carriers are mostly young people learning responsibility, and such reinforcement is crucial to the process of learning how to be a productive adult.

If you still have the envelope, you can deliver it in one of three ways: hand carry it to your carrier's door; drop it through the mail slot in the News Review office door; or if it's a check, put a first-class stamp on and put it in the mail. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.**

If you can't find your envelope, this is how to tip:

1. Write CARRIER in GIANT letters on the bottom left front of an envelope.
2. Write your address on the top left of the front of the envelope (this identifies your carrier).
3. Address the envelope to Greenbelt News Review, Suite 100, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
4. If you are writing a check, make it out to Greenbelt News Review (we will route it to the carrier).
5. If it's a check, either affix a first-class stamp and mail it to the address above or drop it off through the door slot. Our office in the Community Center is just inside the East entrance (the one facing the rear of the New Deal Café) up a few stairs and in a small corridor to the left.
6. If the Community Center is closed, there's another mail slot about 40 feet to the left of the East entrance in the door to the right, halfway up the steps to the rear stage entrance.
7. If the envelope contains cash, **DO NOT MAIL**. Instead, please drop it through our door.
8. Many grateful thanks from the young people who continue a long tradition.



A well-equipped carrier wends his way through a neighborhood.



NO SNOW? NO SLEIGH? NO PROBLEM.

- News Review, December 24, 2020

Letters to the Editor

Happy Return!

Some of you may remember that one of my garden gnomes went AWOL last year (News Review letter of June 9, 2022). Last Saturday he returned!



PHOTO COURTESY SYLVIA LEWIS

Merry Winter Concert

Thursday evening, December 14, we were treated to a joyful musical celebration of winter and holiday music by several groups of high school students (including our grandson) at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The excellent performances of such varied talents were a delightful surprise. The obvious effort and enthusiasm of these students and their teachers were

See LETTERS, page 6

See p. 7 for a seasonal announcement from the Cinema.



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé

This film accentuates the journey of Renaissance World Tour, from its inception, to the opening in Stockholm, Sweden, to the finale in Kansas City, Mo. It is about Beyoncé's intention, hard work, involvement in every aspect of the production, her creative mind and purpose to create her legacy and master her craft. Received with extraordinary acclaim, the tour created a sanctuary for freedom and shared joy for more than 2.7 million fans. Said critic Maura Johnston of the Boston Globe: "[It's] not only an opportunity to catch another glimpse of Beyoncé's dazzling vocals and radiant charisma – it's a chance to go behind the scenes and see how the woman at the center of it all executed her vision."

The Color Purple

A story of love and resilience based on the novel and the Broadway musical, The Color Purple is a decades-spanning tale of one woman's journey to independence. Celie faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. "A powerful and electric film, this is an amazing theatrical experience. Director Blitz Bazawule delivers a lavish old school Hollywood musical, yet also the most modern and honest adaptation of The Color Purple to date," said critic Grace Rudolph of Beyond the Trailer. "A must see."

Wonka

Based on the extraordinary character at the center of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl's most iconic children's book and one of the best-selling children's books of all time, the film tells the story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the Willy Wonka we know today. The film stars Timothée Chalamet, Hugh Grant and Calah Lane. Said Emily Zemler of the Observer: "The film is charming and warm-hearted, much like Paddington and its sequel, and the onscreen delight is infectious."

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034

www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES: DECEMBER 22nd - 28th

Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé (NR) (CC) (DVS)

(2023) (169 mins)

All Tickets \$22.00

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:30 PM

Sat. 7:30 PM

Sun. 1:30 (OC)

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 4:30 PM

Sat. 4:30 PM

Sun. 4:30 PM

The Color Purple (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (140 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Mon. 1:30 PM

Tues. 7:00 PM

Wed. 7:00 PM

Thurs. 7:00 PM

Wonka (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (116 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:00 PM

Sat. 5:00 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 8:00 PM

Sat. 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)

Tues. 7:30 PM

Wed. 7:30 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Santa Claus Is Coming

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department is excited to announce that the big guy himself will be visiting Greenbelt on December 20, December 23 and December 24. Santa and his helpers will leave the station around 6 p.m. each evening. If you live on a court or side street, go to the nearest intersection to wave hello!



2023 GVFD SANTA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 20th @ 6pm
Franklin Park Apartments
Motiva Apartments
Saturday, December 23rd @ 6pm
Greenbriar
Windsor Green
Hunting Ridge
Greenbelt Lake Village
Sunday, December 24th @ 6pm
Old Town
Lakewood
University Square Area
Boxwood
Lakeside North

Merrily We Roll Along At Greenbelt Arts Center

The Greenbelt Arts Center presents *Merrily We Roll Along*, "A musical comedy about fame, friendship and fate. Stephen Sondheim's score is his best ever! The recent revival in N.Y. has enjoyed great success." Directed by Roy Hammond with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, based on the book by George Furth. Performances are January 5 to 20, 2024, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays January 7 and 14 at 2 p.m.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Merrily We Roll Along

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
book by George Furth
Directed by Roy Hammond
January 5-20, 2024
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm;
Sundays January 7 & 14 at 2pm
Tickets:
\$27 - General Admission
\$24 - Senior/Military
\$14 - Child/Student

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG
Is presented through special arrangement
with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtiscripts.com

GAC
GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

Kwanzaa Karamu At The SPACE

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee in collaboration with Chiquita Jackson Enterprises, The SPACE and RUAK is hosting a Kwanzaa Karamu on Saturday, December 30 at The SPACE 2nd floor site, from 4 to 7 p.m. Registering with Eventbrite is suggested.

For more information, contact blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com or partnerships@cjenterprise.co.



Youth Center to Close Early Friday, Dec. 22

The Youth Center will close at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 22, for tile floor cleaning and waxing. The facility will re-open and operate under regular hours on Saturday, December 23.

Visit greenbeltdmd.gov/news for updated information.

Chess Club Moves

Starting in January the Greenbelt Chess Club no longer will meet in the New Deal Café. Their new location is the Greenbelt Youth Center. No meeting will take place on Monday, December 25.



Golden Age Club January Activities

There will be no Golden Age Club meeting on December 27. The club does not meet when schools are closed. But they have lots of plans for January.

The group meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. They will begin collecting 2024 dues in January; a part of the dues goes toward the annual luncheon in April, so early payment is appreciated.

Upcoming activities:

January 3, Business meeting, installation of officers, dues collection and a chance to meet City Manager Josué Salmerón

January 10, A singalong with Chris Cherry and Stefan Brodd

January 17, January birthdays celebration; bring lunch and a dessert or finger food to share.

January 24, Bingo

January 31, Tea; bring finger food and reading materials to share.

Council Seeks Input On Filling Vacant Seat

Greenbelt City Council is gathering community feedback on the needs and the qualities residents wish to see in a new councilmember. Join in to provide input on Thursday, December 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and on Saturday, December 30 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenbriar Community Building.

Additional comments can be sent to council@greenbeltdmd.gov for those unable to attend in person. If Spanish or ASL translation is needed, email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov.

Sign up for city communications and alerts at greenbeltdmd.gov/alerts.

Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the New Deal Café every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages, all levels of fluency are welcome.

Greenbelt Part of Annual Christmas Bird Count

Greenbelt will be part of the 124th Christmas Bird Count, a movement of more than 75,000 volunteers in 2,600 locations throughout the Americas, all finding and counting birds for one day. Ornithologists use the data collected to study trends in bird populations due to species interactions, habitat loss and climate change.

About 50 bird species are commonly found in Greenbelt during the winter, and other rarities are possible. A group will meet at 7:30 a.m. on New Year's Day at the Buddy Attick Park parking lot to walk together and count birds. There will also be an afternoon walk. Experienced birders will answer questions and can provide tips on using binoculars and sound to identify species.

The group will stay on trails and sidewalks. This local count is coordinated by the Patuxent Bird Club and the Prince George's Audubon Society.

Volunteers are also welcome to count birds outside their homes on January 1 and provide counts to the Greenbelt coordinator, John Stith, by calling 301-502-3634 in advance to make arrangements.



Calling Artists

Join the citywide African Americans and the Arts Art Exhibit curated by Shaymar Higgs at the New Deal Café and other city locations. This exhibit will showcase the profound impact of Black Americans on visual arts, music, cultural movements and more. The deadline for submissions for this exhibit is Wednesday, January 3 by 5 p.m. Submit art entries to shaymar@freeartforall.org to be included in this show. All artwork must be well-prepared and hang-ready.

At the Library

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGC-MLS) libraries will be closed Sunday, December 24, through Tuesday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday. The libraries will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at noon. All PGC-MLS libraries also will be closed Sunday, December 31, through Tuesday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday. The libraries will reopen on Wednesday, January 3 at noon. Passport Acceptance Service at PGCMLS libraries will be suspended from December 22 through January 5.

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 in PGCMLS buildings.

In-person events at all PGC-MLS libraries will be on hiatus from Friday, December 22 through Friday, January 5.

Bus Transfer Lights At Greenbelt Metro

On Sunday, December 17, at the Greenbelt Station, Metro began full implementation of bus transfer lights to ensure customers can make a reliable connection to their bus on low-frequency routes. Metro first tested the system in July.

When a train approaches the station during off-peak hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to midnight), a strobe light will signal to bus operators to wait up to five minutes before departing so that Metrorail customers have time to make it from the station platform to the bus.



This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

Hours: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 12/21	FRI 12/22	SAT 12/23	SUN 12/24
FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP, 5:30-6:30pm* Domenic Cicala 7-9pm WAMMIE-nominated roots rock/Americana artist	PIANO STYLINGS OF PETER REPPERT, 6-7:30pm Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes 8-11pm A New Deal fav!	JAZZ JAM, 12noon-3pm EARLIER TIME! New Deal Cafe closes at 4pm Happy Holidays!	<i>Carols at the Cafe, 1-3pm</i> <i>Come one, come all to sing holiday favorites!</i> <i>NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED - LET'S SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER!</i> <i>New Deal Cafe closes at 4pm</i>

MON 12/25	TUES 12/26	WED 12/27	TH 12/28	SPECIALS!
New Deal Cafe CLOSED In observance of Christmas REOPENS 9AM TUESDAY	New Deal Cafe closes at 4pm Happy Holidays! REOPENS 9AM WED	New Deal Cafe closes at 4pm Happy Holidays! REGULAR HOURS THUR	Kim's Grand Rounds 7-9pm Songwriters' Circle, Bluebird Cafe style!	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join or renew your membership. Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW". *For more information on these and other events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

GATE
GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

Greenbelt Access Television
Dec. 23, Sat - Dec. 29, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964)
Campy, comedic, and oh-so-festive. Blast off to Mars with Santa in this science-fiction cult classic!

New This Month

TeaFairy & Friends Storytime Adventures - Christmas Special
Get in the holiday spirit with TeaFairy, Jennifer, and all their friends! In this special episode, we sing along with Melissa Sites, see how animals celebrate Christmas, and get a sneak peak into the lives of gnomes!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

Christmas Eve Mass In Council Chambers

The Catholic Community of Greenbelt will hold a Christmas Eve Mass in the City Council Chambers on Sunday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m. There will be no 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 24. The Mass is also available online by Zoom. Email CCG1985+owner@groups.io for a link.

The Catholic Community of Greenbelt is a Roman Catholic lay-led Intentional Eucharistic Community founded in 1985 as an alternative to parish life, as provided for by the Second Vatican Council. It celebrates Mass each week with guest priests from various orders or retired from archdiocese practice. The difference in the liturgy is that it has a shared homily where, in addition to a priest's interpretation of the meaning of the week's readings, anyone attending is welcome to share their reflections on the scripture.

It is a small group that is welcoming of LGBTQ+, divorced Catholics, remarried, single mothers and other denominations. No collection is taken and no donation is requested. Any money donated is distributed locally to those in need.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**

Christmas Eve Mass
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

A Roman Catholic lay led Intentional Eucharistic Community that welcomes Christians of all denominations and genders.

Sunday 6:30 pm only
(NO 10am Mass this week)

CITY COUNCIL ROOM
25 CRESCENT RD

To Join us by ZOOM email
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

WWW.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on  facebook.com/mowattumc

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero
Christmas Eve Service Sunday 10 am-11 am
College Park UMC will be worshipping with us.
With a brief reception following the service.



The community is welcome to join us.

The Bible Says...

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

MCFcc.org



Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School**

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Cookies on the Bridge Seeks Volunteers

It's time for some sweetness for the students. This is a call for volunteers who are looking for something fun and worthwhile to do: consider Cookies on the Bridge. On weekdays from 3:15 to 4 p.m., volunteers meet at the Spellman Overpass to offer cookies (and carrots) to students coming home from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The goal is to ensure the safety of the students as they make their way home.

Those interested or who have questions should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness), at spreadrak@gmail.com or 301-345-8755 and leave a message.



Condolences to the family and friends of Julie Andrus who died on December 6. She worked for many years at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center.

Our sympathies also to the family and friends of Jean Snyder, who died on December 10. Jean had been active in the Greenbelt community since the early 1990s and founded the group Friends of Greenbelt Park.

The city flag is lowered in honor of Julie and Jean.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

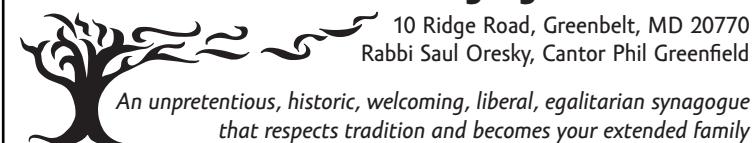


"Concerning the prejudice of race; it is an illusion, a superstition pure and simple, for God created us all of one race." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Worship with us Christmas Eve at
GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday, December 24 @ 5:00PM
101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

https://www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 24 3:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Rev. Ann Kadlec with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

On this night before Christmas, we celebrate once again with the ancient story, carols, dance, words, ritual and cookies. Join us in person or online at 2:50pm for pre-service carols, followed by the service at 3pm.

We are currently holding services at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Our services begin at 3:00. We also offer our services on Zoom and Facebook Live.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Christmas Pageant

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Youth and Confirmation Class will lead the service.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day: Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday after Christmas: Haiti Independence

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

All services will be held In-Person, streamed live via Facebook and YouTube.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 17-23

Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 pm, LISTENING SESSION FOR APPOINTMENT ON FILLING COUNCIL VACANCY - (GREENBELT WEST - SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER)

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 25-29

Monday, December 25, NO MEETING

Wednesday, December 27, NO MEETING

Saturday, December 30 at 10 am, LISTENING SESSION FOR APPOINTMENT ON FILLING COUNCIL VACANCY - (GREENBELT EAST - GREENBRIAR COMMUNITY BUILDING)

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email.banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on

Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Weeks of December 25 & January 1

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday

Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday

Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, December 29, nor Friday, January 5.

ENERGY & WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 27, 10 am - 12 pm & 1 - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd
Greenbelt Residents Can Apply for Assistance, offered by Office of Home Energy Programs

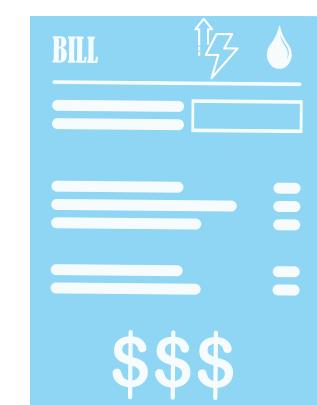
In order to help low-income households in the State of Maryland with their energy bills and to prevent loss and aid in the restoration of home energy service, the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) offers bill assistance. To participate in the Water Assistance Program you must have a past due statement and fall under their income guidelines.

For more information, contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or via email at bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

This program is being offered by the State of Maryland's Office of Home Energy Programs.

Energy Assistance Income Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	Household Income
1	\$25,515
2	\$34,510
3	\$43,505
4	\$52,500



Size of Family Unit	Household Income
1	\$3,547 / month
2	\$4,639 / month
3	\$5,730 / month
4	\$6,822 / month

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

The Emergency Diaper Distribution supports Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month.

To register: <https://forms.gle/28TFe4T1y83B9E8u8> or (240) 424-0302.

GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications Rolling Through December 29, 2023

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Family and Unpaid Caregiver Resource Fair, Alzheimer's Awareness Month Webinar Series, Coffee & Conversations, two Free Produce Distribution events, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults webinar, Staying Strong webinar, and more.

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/CARESprograms.

APPLY TO CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Due to the loss of Councilmember Ric Gordon, a seat is vacant on City Council. After discussing next steps during the **Monday, December 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting** (view at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalTV), the Greenbelt City Council is seeking to appoint this seat to any qualified voter who meets the qualifications of a regular City election, as stated below.

Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age may be nominated for the office of member of council:

- Upon filing at the office of the City Clerk a nominating petition signed by not fewer than fifty (50) voters;
- A written acceptance of the nomination;
- Such other statements as may be required by this charter or by law, including an affidavit of candidate;
- Completed financial disclosure form;
- A statement of intent will be required. Please explain why you are seeking to fill the vacant council seat. One (1) page maximum.
- A résumé.

Upon the finding by the City Clerk that the nomination petition, the written acceptance, and such other statements as may be required are in order, the name of such nominee shall be authorized to be brought forth to Council for consideration of appointment to the vacant council seat.

Tuesday, December 12

is the first day to obtain papers and file a nomination petition.

Wednesday, December 20 by 5 pm
is the last day to file a nomination petition.

Wednesday, January 3, 7:30 pm, Council Chambers, Work Session - Candidate Interviews for Council Vacancy

A link to all forms (printable or digital) and an outline of next steps in the process can be found at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/councilvacancy.

For more information, contact the City Clerk at elections@greenbeltdmd.gov, or by calling (301) 474-8000.

CITY FIBER OPTIC INSTALLATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

We're making our connectivity better! Please pardon our appearance as a City fiber optic installation project will take place on Crescent Road beginning the week of December 4, 2023, and is projected to last two months. Thank you!

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas). This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please note which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM

Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at tcephas@greenbeltdmd.gov or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

For more information on this bill, visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/BYOBag.



LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE | FALL 2023-2024

The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum from October 30, 2023 until January 2024. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents NOT to park in front of leaf piles.

DECEMBER 26 - 29

Lakewood

Letters, continued

on display.

The different orchestras and bands and their Christmas medleys had the audience swaying and clapping along.

The choral groups, including a cappella and gospel singers, rocked the house.

We left ERHS with a good feeling of what high school students can accomplish together when they're motivated, and a cheerful holiday spirit! Thanks to all who participated.

Angela Buckley

Plastic Bag Ban

Did anyone consider the food poisoning cases? Reusable bags are not recommended for raw meat or fish. I personally would not put unwrapped fresh produce in them either. For me to bag each item in a small bag will be more wasteful than one regular bag with all vegetables. And, we basically have to, after each trip, sanitize them.

Amina Khalifa

More on Bag Ban

Derrick Faison made a good point in his Letter to the Editor (see December 14, 2023, issue) saying that retailers should be providing signage about the plastic bag ban. Greenbelt must abide by Prince George's County's similar Better Bag Bill that requires all retail establishments to post flyers in both English and Spanish announcing the ban and paper bag charge. Green ACES and the Green Team have been working with Greenbelt business groups, and sent them samples the County produced, but the retailers decide when to post them, as long as they are posted by January 1, 2024.

Please understand that if Greenbelt had voted not to adopt the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance, single-use plastic film carryout bags would still be banned in Greenbelt because of

the County Better Bag Bill.

Mr. Faison also said: "Will restaurants in Greenbelt soon be required to provide you your sandwich in your hands with no wrapping?" In last week's article, I mentioned there are exceptions to both the city and the county ban, including allowing plastic to contain "unwrapped prepared foods and bakery goods." We are trying to be reasonable.

Realizing that the cost of acquiring paper or reusable bags will be a burden to some, Green ACES/Green Team and the city have purchased reusable bags to give out. We also wish to point out that plastic bags given out now are not free. They raise the cost of merchandise, since stores recover the costs for these plastic bags. They are a burden to all shoppers.

John Lippert, Chair, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES)/Green Team

Editor's note:

From city website

Only single-use plastic film bags given at the point of sale are banned. It does not include a plastic or paper bag used to package or contain bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items; fresh meat or seafood; flowers, potted plants, or other damp items; unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods; dry-cleaned clothes.

Why This Truck?

I saw the "Lady Law" truck parked in front of the police station had been splashed with white paint in an act of vandalism. Pretty cheeky, given the location. What is it about the Lady Law truck that evokes the vandalism, or is there an anger element involved? Seems the town could do better.

Frank Kayser



Bring Your Own Bag Facts Did You Know...

by John Lippert

Beginning January 1, Greenbelt retail establishments must charge at least 10 cents for each paper carryout bag provided at the point of sale, except for paper bags containing prescription medications provided by a pharmacy, those given by full-service restaurants for customers to take home leftovers and those for food provided at fast-food restaurant takeout windows. The entire bag charge is kept by the retailer, not by the City of Greenbelt.

Without a charge on paper bags, plastic carryout bag bans result in massive uptake of paper bags and only modest increases in reusable bag use. For example, following the plastic bag ban in Laurel, the share of grocery shoppers using paper bags rose from less than 1 percent to 68 percent, while the share using reusable bags rose from 5 percent to only 14 percent and no bag from 7 percent to 14 percent.

The goal of plastic bag bans

is to get shoppers to bring their own reusable carryout bags, or not use a bag, not to simply switch to using massive amounts of paper bags, which also harms the environment. Some governments have allowed a lower charge, but this did not provide enough of an incentive for most customers to bring their own reusable bag or not use a bag. This sets a minimum charge, which businesses may need to raise with inflation. No discount or exception may be given, nor promise or promotion of a discount or exception to the customer either directly or indirectly. A retail establishment must indicate on the consumer transaction receipt the number of paper carryout bags provided by the store and the total amount of money charged to show that it is complying with the paper bag charge requirement.

John Lippert is chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Green ACES.

Tree Canopy Grant Helps Residents See the Forest Through the Trees

by Xavier Courouble

On a bright, sunny late November afternoon, Rebecca and Xavier Courouble helped Stadler Nurseries' staff plant a Kousa dogwood tree in their front lawn. The purchase and installation of the tree was funded by a City of Greenbelt 2023 Tree Canopy reimbursable grant. The city is offering these grants through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). They are still available, but applications are due soon – the deadline is Friday, December 29 at 4 p.m.

Kousa Dogwood

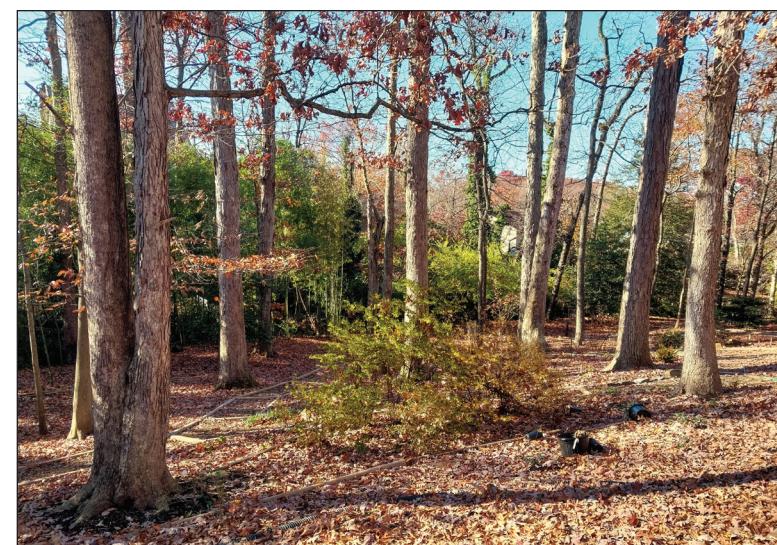
The selection of the Kousa dogwood tree (*Cornus kousa*) was submitted to and accepted by the Advisory Committee on Trees. It is a small-to-mid-size specimen tree, originally from Asia, but imported to the U.S. around 1875. More resistant to drought, cold and disease than its cousin, the native flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Kousa dogwood is also mildly resistant to damage by deer and better suited to thrive under full sun in an open-lawn environment.

Replanting the Yard

A PG Atlas (pgatlas.com) aerial view of the Couroubles' Lakeside property, dated 1970, shows a front yard already occupied by an open lawn in contrast with a dense tree canopy in the side and back yards. To repopulate the front lawn, and in concordance with Advisory Committee on Trees and Department of Public Works recommendations, a line of six roadside trees, comprising sweetbay magnolias (*Magnolia virginiana*) and shadblush (*Amelanchier canadensis*) has been established along the curb. Additional native trees, flowering dogwood and eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), collected through past City of Greenbelt Arbor Day Tree Giveaway opportunities, have also been planted to fill the gap.

A Treed Property

This Lakeside property, situated on two original lots, is charac-



The Couroubles' wooded yard

- Photos by Xavier Courouble



Two Stadler Nursery staff members plant a tree in the Couroubles' front yard.

terized by a steep slope terrain bringing rainwater toward the lake through a naturalized stormwater channel. It also carries approximately 60 tall native deciduous and coniferous trees populating the side yards and the deep back yard. The ecological landscape appears to be defined by a mixed canopy of tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), hickory (*Carya alba* and *glabra*), black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) with understories of flowering dogwood, (Asimina triloba) and American hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), somewhat typical of coastal plain mesic mixed hardwood forests.

The previous property owners, Abraham and Delia Sinkov (1955-1962), Anthony and Catherine Madden (1962-1970) and Jane Kuhn (1970-2021), have achieved remarkable accomplish-

Apply for a Tree Grant

The City of Greenbelt is awarding one-time, reimbursable grants to go directly toward the purchase of trees to assist homeowners and community organizations with planting new trees and/or replacing trees lost due to storm damage, disease or invasive insects. Funding for this grant will be provided through the American Rescue Plan Act, and can be used to purchase, install, stake and mulch the area where the tree or trees will be planted. For more information or to apply visit greenbeltdmd.gov/?navid=3124.

Crisis Hotline's New Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code has changed, effective July 16. The new three-digit dialing code is 988 and it's available for phone calls and text messages.

The former Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be accessible.

Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

"No matter what problems you're dealing with, whether or not you're thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline," the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at samhsa.gov/find-help/988.



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Council Discusses Legislation, Budget Items, School Crossings

by Michael Zeliff

At the Greenbelt City Council meeting on Monday, December 11, in addition to deciding how to fill the vacancy resulting from Ric Gordon's untimely death (see December 14 issue of the News Review), council addressed several other topics.

Bring Your Own Bag

Green ACES and the Green Team proposed that the city's Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance, which requires businesses here to charge 10 cents for all bags, be brought into closer alignment with the Prince George's County bill. Specifically, council approved waiving the charge for restaurants in Greenbelt that provide bags for leftovers and for fast-food restaurants that offer bags at takeout windows. Council also passed a proposed moratorium that will give Greenbelt businesses 90 days to adjust to adding the 10-cent surcharge.

Standing Rules

Councilmember Silke Pope introduced for first reading a Resolution to Repeal and Reenact with Amendment Resolution Number 2097 to Adopt Standing Rules for the Council of the City of Greenbelt. This reflects council's discussion of standing rules at their December 6 worksession. The submitted document reduces from five minutes to three minutes the stipulated time granted to those speaking under petitions and requests. In addition, under the section of members' attendance at meetings, the requirement of a supermajority vote to enable a councilmember to participate in meetings remotely was changed to require a simple majority vote.

Crossing Guard Shortage

A recent fatal car accident involving schoolchildren in a school crosswalk in nearby Riverdale Park has highlighted significant concerns regarding school safety, particularly focusing on the shortage of crossing guards and the limited presence of county police at schools. Councilmember Jenni Pompi initiated a discussion about the county's current inability to fill crossing guard vacancies, proposing a shift of this responsibility to the municipality. Councilmembers Ric Gordon and Silke Pope had also raised concerns during previous council discussions about the need for increased police presence during key school hours. Three proposals on the table included an MOU with county council transferring the funding and hiring of crossing guards to the City of Greenbelt, enhancing police presence at schools and a joint task force with city and county officials to address concerns and find short- and long-term solutions.

Pompi noted that there had been a longtime crossing guard at that school crossing in Riverdale Park until the guard retired last school year. Since then, the Prince George's County Police Department has been unable to fill the position. Those positions pay between \$17.22 to \$26.93 per hour, with benefits.

Pompi suggested local people want to work in their own communities and thus the municipality might be better positioned than the county to fill these jobs. The county could provide funds to the city to make these hires,

she suggested. The police are responsible for staffing those positions, and if there's a vacancy, they could send an officer to fill that position. However, dedicated crossing guards are much better, as they won't need to leave in an emergency, she noted. The city needs to know that its children are safe.

Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers was present at the meeting and expressed concerns about taking on the crossing guard program from the county. It will require equipping, supervising and training six to eight new employees, plus pulling police from other duties when needed, Bowers said. "It's better that we leave it with the county," he said. Greenbelt already does much to supplement this program, he added.

Councilmembers expressed their need to have a better sense of what's going on around Greenbelt's public schools and how many crossing guards are needed. Councilmember Rodney Roberts agreed with Bowers that Greenbelt shouldn't take over the program and hire its own crossing guards due to the complexity and cost.

Council moved to draft a letter to Prince George's County and the county police department so that municipalities can participate. "This is an urgent problem," noted Mayor Emmett Jordan.

Reparations Commission

Council approved up to \$16,000 to fund the Greenbelt Reparations Commission, specifically to hire a consultant who will help its members work together effectively to set and meet goals.

New HVAC System

Council approved the purchase of a new HVAC system to be installed at Springhill Lake Recreation Center prior to summer heat by Densel Company in Gaithersburg, at a total cost of \$54,720.

Natural Gas Contract

As part of its consent agenda, City Manager Josué Salmerón reviewed the new two-year contract for the city's natural gas signed with Engie, the lowest bidder. The city consumes about 86,000 therms of natural gas annually across 10 different gas accounts for all its facilities.

Legislative Priorities

Among legislative priorities that might receive support from the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), one is a proposal to build a new municipal building, which Roberts questioned due to its cost.

Maglev

Council agreed that Greenbelt will send a supplemental letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment objecting that the period it set for commenting on Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail's (BWRR) application for water quality certification closed before BWRR submitted hundreds of pages of documents, coming after Greenbelt had already commented on the application.

Buddy Attick Playground

Council gave final approval to the proposal that Greenbelt purchase from Sparks@Play in Owings Mill, Md., a new in-

clusive playground that will be wheelchair accessible and replace the existing playground at Buddy Attick Park at a total cost, shipping included, of \$611,422.75. This was the lowest bid, and the company chosen has contracts with other counties and with the state. Installment will occur this spring, and workers will be paid a living wage.

Tree Replacement

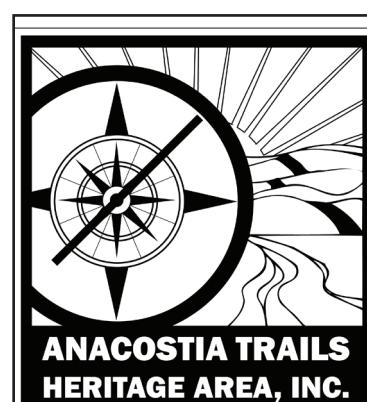
Council approved a proposal to spend \$27,000 to start removing Bradford pear trees, especially in Greenbelt East along Hanover Parkway. The trees were planted as condos and apartments were built, but now show age and damage. Bradford pear trees have been designated an invasive species due to their propensity for spreading. As suggested by the Advisory Committee on Trees, the Bradford pears will be replaced with a variety of other trees, including ginko and native sycamore. Councilmember Danielle McKinney suggested that schools receive priority when deciding where to plant new trees.

Police Department SUVs

Council discussed the purchase of five Dodge Durango SUVs for Greenbelt's police department at a total cost of \$210,000. To comments from the council that these SUVs were not even hybrids, in its ongoing effort to make the city greener, Bowers explained that orders must be placed earlier to purchase cleaner vehicles. He said that the department has "hit a wall" in trying to order more hybrids from Ford, which has a short order period 18 months prior to delivery. With 65 to 70 vehicles in the police fleet, there is always turnover and the department wants to follow council's directives as closely as it can, Bowers assured members. Council approved this purchase, which will receive ARPA funding.

Charlestowne Village

In response to a resident concern about sight distance for turning vehicles at Prince James Court and Lakecrest Drive, staff performed a technical analysis and concluded that the current conditions do not meet American Association of State Highway and Transportation standards. Approximately 10 parking spaces along Lakecrest Drive will be removed to address the safety deficiencies at the intersection.



Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!
Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrails.org

Greenbelt Pioneers Reunite



PHOTO COURTESY MARSHALL GERSTEL

A group of pioneer children of original Greenbelt families met recently in Reston, Va., at the home of Susan and Marshall Gerstel, formerly of 16-A Ridge Road (and previously of 14-Z Ridge and Springhill Lake apartments). They reminisced about the utopian Greenbelt lifestyle and shared memories of growing up together from elementary school through college. It was the 18th time the group has met since the city's 50th anniversary in 1987.

For more about the group of pioneer children and their reunions, see Greenbelt Pioneers Continue Their Annual Gatherings in the November 11, 2021, issue.

Pictured, from left, Marshall and Susan Gerstel, Laura and John (seated) Schaffer, John and Joanne Flynn and Linda Howey and Joe Houser. Donald Walker, Jackie Havens and Harvey Goldstein joined via Zoom.

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Thank you!



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DAVIS continued from page 1

organizing stakeholder meetings among Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), HOAs and businesses, and working to convince former Governor Parris Glendening to set aside a third of the tract around Greenbelt Metro Station as state-protected land. However, again, Davis says that while she suggested actionable items, the entire council had to agree in order for any given project to be completed.

City Facilities

During her tenure, Davis oversaw new facilities being created and built, including Schrom Hills Park, the Greenbelt Cinema renovation, the Greenbelt Museum, the new police station and public works buildings, the skateboard park and new bike lanes. She also remembers when the Community Center was acquired and renovated for use by city residents. Other renovations done during her time on council include the Buddy Attick Park restrooms and parking lot, the Aquatic & Fitness Center and Roosevelt Center. In addition, the Forest Preserve was created and additional tracts developed throughout Greenbelt.

Infrastructure

During her tenure as council-member and as mayor, Davis saw all departments expand, including the police, and new technology and planning within the city. New departments and programs that have been added to serve residents include: the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program, established in 2001, the Economic Development Office, to encourage new business development, and a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office. The Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and Forest Preserve Advisory Board were also created. She is also pleased to see the expansion of new businesses and medical facilities in the city.

Areas that still need to be worked on are the historic cemeteries, she believes. There are grants available for the city to obtain plaques to inform the community about who is buried in the various sections of each cemetery. Hamilton cemetery and Indian Springs cemetery, where a revolutionary soldier is buried, are both in Greenbelt.

City Council

When Davis first was elected to the city council, there were only five members. However, after a legal challenge over discrimination, council was expanded to seven members. As a result, Emmett Jordan and Silke Pope were elected to the council in 2009. Davis is pleased that the current council is the most diverse in Greenbelt's history, geographically, ethnically and by gender and age. When Davis ran in 1993, she was just the second woman to have been elected to the Greenbelt City Council.

Davis is also proud that council included Greenbelt residents in deciding how to allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Greenbelt was one of a handful of cities that asked for and received community input. Most of the ARPA money was used to pay back rents, mortgages, assessments, for health care vouchers, education grants, etc. Council invested ARPA funds to help its residents sustain their lives, particularly during the pandemic.

Advice for Council Candidates

Her advice to those who wish

to be elected to the city council is to first volunteer to join the Advisory Planning Board. Other suggestions are: avoid pre-conceived ideas, find out the background of any given issue and come with ideas. However, there is a great deal of history in Greenbelt and anyone interested in being a councilmember has to really know the history, the laws governing the city and the challenges that the city has had to face over the years. Too many would-be candidates have never attended a council meeting, may have attended GHI meetings, but never volunteered for the many advisory committees and boards whose ideas help to guide council decisions and actions, Davis said.

Advice to Councilmembers

Once elected, Davis suggests, "...listen, ask questions about a given topic, read your meeting packets and be prepared to contribute ideas and suggestions at the meetings. Attend city functions, be engaged and be prepared to attend meetings outside of Greenbelt that will impact our

city in some way. As an elected representative of the city, council-members are expected to attend county, state and national events, conferences and other activities."

Looking Forward

Davis plans to attend worksessions to support issues of great importance to her. She intends to participate in some organizational meetings and increase her entertainment activities since she is now free on Monday and Wednesday evenings, which were previously filled with council meetings and worksessions. For example, recently Davis attended the Greenbelt Concert Band performance at the Church of Latter-day Saints Tabernacle, which took place on a Monday.

The residents of Greenbelt have greatly benefited from Davis' participation, commitment and contributions as a member of the Advisory Planning Board, as a city councilmember and as mayor. We all wish her the best and thank her for helping the City of Greenbelt prosper and grow.

Library Board of Trustees Seeking New Members

The Prince George's County Board of Library Trustees is looking for new members to join its governing board in 2024. The Library Board, the seven-member policy-making body that guides the development of library services for Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), hires and evaluates the Library's chief executive officer, sets systemwide priorities, oversees library resources to make sure they are used effectively toward achieving systemwide goals, reviews and approves policies, serves as a representative for the Library at community events and advocates for the system among members of the public and policymakers.

Board members, who must live in Prince George's County, serve without pay for staggered five-year terms, but they may

serve for a shorter time if appointed to complete the term of a vacant seat. Members are expected to attend board meetings, which take place every other month, and additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Members are also asked to serve on one of three committees (personnel, budget and planning, or community engagement), as well as take on a leadership role by serving as a board officer or the chair of a board committee at some point during their time as a member.

Applications must be received by Tuesday, January 2. For more information about the board, by-laws, past meetings and more, or to submit or print an application, visit pgcmls.info/join-the-board. Physical applications are also available at PGCMLS library branches.



News Review on Tour



Marc Manheimer takes a break from watching Andean condors to catch up on Greenbelt news. He traveled in the high Andes and down toward the Amazon basin on his birding trip in Ecuador.



Amina Khalifa visited San Antonio, Texas with her daughters and grandson. Here they are reading the News Review at the Guenther House Museum and Restaurant: from left, grandson Alexander and daughters Heba and Dina Toulan.

PHOTO BY AMINA KHALIFA



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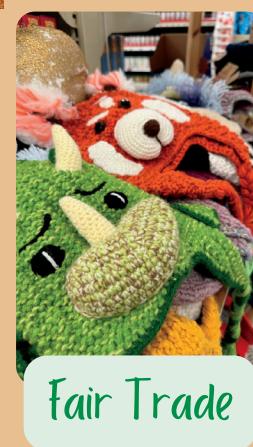
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Plant-based eggnog



Stocking Stuffers



2024 Calendars



Christmas Dinner



Winter Ales



Christmas Dinner



Winter Ales

SCOUTS continued from page 1



From left, Brooklyn Scott, Claire Aolga and Emerson Gary pose at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the University Park food pantry.

team of nine additional volunteers they recruited for the project, Lien, Anna, their volunteers and Greenbelt Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll rehabilitated a storm-damaged hillside at Buddy Attick Park. Together they planted 40 native trees and shrubs in an area that had lost almost all of its forest cover in the storms.

Emily Gendreau decided that she wanted to spotlight the importance of native insects and other invertebrates for a healthy ecosystem. She developed plans for a "bug hotel" (a structure made from recycled pallets that provides habitat for beneficial native insects), met with City of Greenbelt staff to identify an appropriate location for the bug hotel, built the structure with the assistance of her family and designed a sign that educates the public about the importance of native insects and invertebrates and how the bug hotel provides habitat for these species. The bug hotel and educational sign are located at Schrom Hills Park.

Claire Aolga, Brooklyn Scott and Emerson Gary identified food insecurity as a significant problem in local communities. They located a dilapidated food pantry on a lot owned by the University Park Church of the Brethren that had

previously provided free food for residents of Hyattsville, College Park and University Park. Emerson, Brooklyn and Claire worked with church members to relocate the pantry to a more accessible location and then repaired and painted the structure, added inviting messages in both English and Spanish, installed a motion-sensor light to improve safety after dark and stocked the pantry with free food. The scouts also developed a flyer and provided large food bins to assist the church with future food collections.

Sadie Young, Lilah Ali and Faith Holden wanted to assist pollinators, stressing the importance of these insects to the health of Maryland ecosystems. They coordinated with City of Greenbelt staff about potential locations to plant a pollinator garden and a plan for obtaining appropriate plants. After working with the city to determine the best location, they recruited seven additional volunteers, which they then organized into a workday for planting the pollinator garden at Schrom Hills Park.

All of the Girl Scouts received their Silver Award Pins and certificates at a Court of Awards ceremony on September 15.

Holly Wheeler is troop leader for Girl Scout Troop 23007.



Emily Gendreau's bug hotel at Schrom Hills Park

- Photos by Holly Wheeler

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City's Animal Services Program Discussed in Council Worksession

by Deanna Dawson

Animal Services was the topic of the Greenbelt City Council's November 29 worksession.

Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver chaired the meeting as Mayor Emmett Jordan was unable to attend in person. The Animal Services program is administered by the Greenbelt Police Department and Police Chief Richard Bowers was the main point person, assisted by Walter Flores, interim supervisor of Animal Services. Bowers gave an overview of the program, followed by discussion with council on program operations.

Overview

Animal Services has two main functions: enforcement and shelter. Staff respond to calls for stray, injured, diseased or abused animals, sometimes capturing them; investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases; testify in court proceedings on animal cruelty cases; administer the dog park licensing program; and prepare reports and other documents. The shelter function involves maintaining the shelter, caring for shelter animals and providing adoption services for them. Animal Services currently has an annual budget of about \$389,000, 75 percent of which is personnel costs. The program is budgeted for a staff of three full-time and one half-time employees but currently has only two full-time employees. Nine volunteers supplement staff in providing care for shelter animals; 92 animals have been housed this year: 32 dogs, 58 cats and two rabbits. Staff conduct checks on the city dog park – there currently are 94 permit-holders – and responded to 299 animal complaint calls this year. Flores said they first try to work with animal owners, letting them know that complaints have been made against their animal(s) and helping owners get needed resources; if necessary, civil citations can be issued.

Bowers emphasized that calls should be made to the police non-emergency number, 301-474-7200, so a dispatcher can directly contact Animal Services staff; calls made to the shelter will be forwarded to voicemail.

Staffing

Bowers acknowledged there is frequent turnover in Animal Services staff. When asked for the reason, he speculated that staff are expected to perform many tasks and Greenbelt salaries may not be as high as in other possible worksites. Also, there are fewer volunteers than before Covid, increasing the staff workload. A volunteer orientation session was scheduled for December 2 and Flores said they hope to offer them monthly. The shelter ideally would have 20 or more volunteers to ensure that



Scooby, a 13-year-old German Shepherd mix, is currently at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter and in need of a home. To adopt or foster Scooby, submit an application to animalcontrol@greenbeltdmd.gov or call 301-474-6124 for more information.



Santa poses with a dog at the Pictures with Santa Paws event at the Animal Shelter on December 18.

- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Animal Shelter

invite broader use of the shelter with its current capacity. Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked if a partnership with the University of Maryland veterinary school had been explored (Bowers was not aware that it had been), suggesting student interns could help with staffing shortages. Councilmember Jenni Pompi asked about the minimum age for volunteers, adding that high school students need community service hours to graduate, and the shelter would be a good opportunity for them. Flores replied that volunteers must be 18 or older, though they have discussed setting up a junior volunteer program.

Shelter

The animal shelter opened in 2005 (see greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20050512.pdf). The capacity is six dogs and 15 cats. The shelter can reach capacity as animals seized in cruelty cases must be held until the cases have been adjudicated. Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested that Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, with its many disused buildings, might have suitable overflow space for shelter animals. Jordan recalled that the shelter has had days when adoption fees – \$100 for cats, \$150 for dogs – are waived and encouraged that be done again to free up shelter space.

Weaver suggested that Greenbelt could partner with neighboring communities, though Bowers stated he would not want to

discuss again in an upcoming budget worksession. In the meantime, Greenbelt residents can help support the shelter through purchases of food and supplies (see greenbeltdmd.gov/government/departments/animal-control/animal-shelter) or by contributing to WAGS through their Facebook page or fundraisers.



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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

PSAC continued from page 1

Higgins commented that she and Bowers have "a strong difference of opinion" over this issue.

When she noted that PSAC has not gotten a response from council on its request for access, Jordan said that this was an administrative decision, not a policy decision, and is under the chief and city manager's jurisdiction.

Cameras

In 2017, PSAC submitted a report with recommendations about additional security camera placements. Council has suggested that PSAC review and update its recommendations. The committee reached out to Bowers for input and he suggested pivoting to license-plate readers, which the department thinks will be a better investment.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts pronounced himself "flabbergasted" at the discussion of cameras, for which he said the evidence is pretty clear that they are not helping. He said that the real need is for local prosecutors to start prosecuting car thefts and carjackings even if no one is hurt. PSAC member Stan Zirkin noted enforcement can be problematic, given that adult gangs are using juveniles to steal cars, knowing that if caught the juvenile is going to face very limited sanctions. He also noted that PSAC's focus is on violent crime, not car thefts.

PSAC member Steven Mirsky, an engineer, stated that the existing city cameras usually cannot even identify the person involved in a crime and to improve the reliability and effectiveness of the city's cameras would place a large drain on Greenbelt's limited information technology resources. Mirsky said that license-plate readers would be more effective and criminals would soon learn that Greenbelt is not an easy mark.

Privacy v. Safety

Several members of both council and PSAC noted that residents are reporting feeling less safe in Greenbelt than in the past. Zirkin noted that more crime is happening in broad daylight.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver stated that the effectiveness of cameras and license-plate readers must be balanced with privacy concerns, noting that residents have expressed concerns about being constantly tracked.

PSAC member Mary Thomas said that transparency can help alleviate some of these concerns. Bowers said that the city records over its video footage every 30 days. Officers will copy selected videos needed for investigation of a crime to a separate device within those 30 days. License-plate reader footage is transferred to the state government for retention.

Regarding juvenile crime, Bowers said the department attempts to have engagement with youths prior to their involvement in the criminal justice process. City officers seek to have positive encounters with kids.

Resident Bob Rand suggested that PSAC research what other cities are doing. He also reminded those present of the 2021/22 findings by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, which found discrepancies between the number of citations and warnings issued to white males versus Black, non-Hispanic males. He was pleased, however, to see PSAC and police taking a more holistic approach to crime.

Resident Matt Inzeo suggested a police cadet program aimed at middle-school students. Bowers said his department is working with the recreation department on a public safety explorer program involving the police and fire departments.

There was some discussion of a city anonymous tip line. However, Bowers said that past efforts had not been successful, so the department now uses Prince George's Crime Solvers as its source for anonymous tips.

Action?

PSAC member Eunice Pierre called the worksessions good, but asked where the action is. She noted that PSAC and council have been talking about cameras for years.



Free Covid Tests Are Available Again

Once again, four at-home Covid tests per household are available for free from the federal government. Sign up to receive the tests at covid.gov/tests.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

A folded paper star brightens up a window for the holidays.



PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS

A bald eagle perches in a tree near the pond near Schrom Hills Park.

News Review Wins ARPA Grant; Watch Out for Changes

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt News Review (GNR) is the delighted recipient of a new American Rescue Plan Act grant from the City of Greenbelt. The proposal was submitted in mid-June and requested funding for two initiatives the newspaper had been flirting with for years but couldn't quite justify financially. The newspaper would like to thank the city and its staff and to applaud the evaluation committee for its diligence.

More Receptive Website

The first initiative will upgrade the GNR website to be more receptive to advertisers by providing a common framework for submitting ads internally and externally, including the ability to pay upfront for those advertisers who are not billed. Additionally, the grant offers the opportunity to refresh the current site, which has now been up for several years without a major overhaul.

Better Looking

The second and more visible purpose is to print the News Review on higher quality paper. Using a higher contrast, less porous paper is an experiment to see if a more attractive presentation enhances readership and stimulates more advertising. Even if it doesn't, it may become the new standard anyway – it's hard to go backwards.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friends@greenbelibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the black box next to the Library's front desk.

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

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Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

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Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings and welcomes new members, especially string players. Rehearsals start on January 4 for the new year. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.



PHOTO COURTESY DARELYNN FUNG

Greenbelt resident and Ithaca College class of '91 alum Darellynn Fung attended the college's Alumni Weekend where she saw a vocal performance by current IC student Grace Rankel. Grace is also a Greenbelt resident and Fung's former student.

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Deadline for December 28 issue is noon Saturday, December 23

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Deadline for January 4 issue is noon Saturday, December 30

School News

Celebrating Computer Science Week at Greenbelt Middle School

by Lois Rosado

Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) students enjoyed an Hour of Code provided by CodeHS on Thursday, December 7, during Computer Science Week. Hour of Code is a global project offering introductions to computer science to K-12 students in schools through fun activities and videos. Over 100 million students have participated in over 180 countries, with hundreds of sponsoring partner companies and organizations.

CodeHS

CodeHS is a trusted online platform that offers products that include a comprehensive computer science curriculum for middle and high schools. During science week, CodeHS staff visited schools in the area to introduce students to the graphical version of Python coding called Turtle. CodeHS provides resources and products to teachers, students and schools in order to implement a successful computer science program. The CodeHS staff visiting GMS were Julia Trigo, Lindsay Roberts and Michael Holley.

Dr. Joan Jackson, the STEM coordinator and community liaison at GMS, was very excited about the Hour of Code. Students volunteered or were selected by their teachers to participate in this exercise in advance of the STEM and coding programs that will

begin in January 2024.

Student Participants

Christopher Mexicano, a seventh grader at GMS, described the Turtle coding activity as fun. He learned to move the turtle into a square version of his name. Before he began, he watched an instructional video and was very confident about his ability to complete the assignment, which he did. Mexicano had previously learned Scratch, an Amazon coding program. He said he is interested in learning more.

Another seventh grader, Fadullah Adeniyi, said, "I learned how to use the left, forward and down commands to create the first letter of my name in a square." This was Adeniyi's first-time exposure to coding, and he wants to learn more about computer science to eventually expand his job opportunities.

The CodeHS staff was later joined by Ron Nicholson, director of BecauseICan, who will be teaching GMS students Python coding beginning in January 2024. (See New STEM Programs come to Greenbelt Middle School in the November 9, 2023, issue of the News Review for more details about BecauseICan.)

Computer science week with CodeHS was a big hit at GMS.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Recognized for AP Excellence

The College Board announced that Eleanor Roosevelt High School has been named to the AP School Honor Roll, earning Bronze distinction. The school earned this recognition for their commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and to maximize college readiness.

"Eleanor Roosevelt's AP program has been student-centered since day one, and our Advanced Placement Program has been successful for three decades," said Dr. Marisha Stewart, AP coordinator. "Our success is due to promoting teacher collaboration, eliminating barriers for students, systemically supporting teachers, employing data to drive change and optimizing the master schedule."

At Roosevelt, 45 percent of seniors took at least one AP exam, with 34 percent scoring three or higher. Eleven percent

took five or more AP exams.

Seniors at Roosevelt were recently recognized for academic achievement in the Advanced Placement Program Capstone Diploma program, a multiyear, project-based learning experience that develops critical thinking, research, collaboration and presentation skills. Students earn their Capstone Diplomas by earning scores of three or higher (on a five-point scale) in AP Seminar, AP Research and on four additional AP exams. Seniors earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate for scoring a three or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

The College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) gives students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school and potentially earn credits towards their college diploma.

The article was drawn from a press release from Prince George's County Public Schools.



Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.



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Roosevelt High School Hosts Robotics Tournament



PHOTO BY OWEN KELLEY

Greenbelt's Joy Oladimejji drops a ball onto her team's robot, Robot 53E (partially obscured), so that it can shoot into the scoring zone at a competition held on December 16, 2023, at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. To Joy's right are team members John Kelley and Allan Morales, and behind her, Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan stands in the audience. Not pictured are team members Violet Ridge, who designed the flywheel that shoots balls, and Meghana Noojipady and Felix Hass, who programmed the brains of Robot 53E. High school teams from as far away as Hagerstown, Annapolis, and southern Maryland brought 32 robots to the competition.



PHOTO BY KAREN BOGOSKI

The tournament champions receive their trophies at the conclusion of the December 16 robotics competition held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The two winning robots were Robot 9080C from South Hagerstown High School (students pictured on the left) and Robot 53A from Eleanor Roosevelt (five students on the right). From right, the students who built Robot 53A and their coach are robot builder Akif Albayrak who is a foreign-exchange student from Turkey, programmer Zoey Zhang, coach Karl Hille, squad captain Veena Raj, robot builder Jacob Yogiaveetil and robot driver Michael Thoundayil. The Eleanor Roosevelt team organizes this annual competition, and it is variously known as the Capital Beltway Challenge and the Beltway Battle.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA VIERAITIS

Donna Peterson's collection of Santas is on display and ready for a Greenbelt Christmas. Photo taken by her five-year-old granddaughter.

Winter Activity Guide Now Available Online

Greenbelt Recreation has a packed schedule this winter. Starting in December, they offer a variety of options, including music, art and dance classes for pre-school, a host of performing arts classes for elementary and middle school, a wide array of visual arts, ceramics, dance, music, and health and fitness classes for teens and adults, and myriad trips, health and fitness and special interest options for active aging.

Registration for classes and events is ongoing for both residents and nonresidents. Visit greenbeltdmd.gov/activityguide.

Patuxent Refuge North Tract Open Sundays

Patuxent Research Refuge announced that the Refuge's Visitor Information Station on the North Tract, and the North Tract itself, off Maryland Route 198, will be closed to all general visitation from Monday through Saturday but will remain open on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors are welcome on Sundays to enjoy the Tract's 20 miles of trails and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The temporary closure is in response to decreased staff capacity and public safety considerations. The Refuge's North Tract contains both active firing ranges and potential unexploded ordnance as the land was formerly a military training ground. On Sundays, there is no hunting and firing ranges are inactive. Registered hunters possessing a valid permit issued through Meade Natural Heritage Association will be allowed to access the North Tract via the Hunt Control Station and those identified in a current Special Use Permit will not be impacted.

Descriptions of programs and opportunities are available at fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research.

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SHOP continued from page 1

The following organizations and individuals contributed to the event: American Legion Greenbelt Post 136, Beltway Plaza

Mall, Franklin Park, Glen Oaks, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee, the Greenbelt Volun-

teer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Ladies' Auxiliary, Platinum Rollers Motorcycle Club, Target and some individual citizens.



Officers stop to pose with Santa at Target.

Free Chromebooks from State Help Underserved Greenbelters

by Lesley Kash

The state awarded 133,000 Chromebook laptops to 27 local governments and partners that are helping ensure reliable, high-speed internet access for underserved households, Governor Wes Moore announced on November 17. As part of Maryland's \$27.2 million investment, Greenbelt applied for, received and distributed 200 Chromebooks worth \$39,750, with \$1,200 granted for distribution costs.

Greenbelt CARES Director Dr. Liz Park and her staff managed Greenbelt's grant and the distribution of the Chromebooks. Residents had to submit an application and meet income and residence requirements set forth in the grant and only one device was awarded per household.

"These devices are a gateway for Marylanders to be able to apply for jobs, complete schoolwork and connect with vital community resources," said Moore. "In partnership with local governments and community organizations, we are connecting underserved households with the tools they need to succeed."

Grants were awarded to all 27 of the jurisdictions that applied and requests ranged from 10 to 30,000 devices. Most jurisdictions also received funding to help pay for their distribution. Greenbelt applied promptly and received the grant earlier in the

year; all the devices have been distributed since then. Greenbelt is not included in the current, second round of grants announced by Moore.

"In addition to our infrastructure improvements that are bringing underserved communities online, the Office [of Statewide Broadband] is focused on closing the digital divide," said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day.

The department has partnered with Daly Computers and HP, Inc. (a Mid-Atlantic IT services firm) to supply Chromebooks across the state. The University of Maryland's Tech Extension will provide free, one-on-one tech support to Marylanders who need assistance. Internet connection availability or adequacy were not assessed by this grant.

Park said Greenbelt recipients "expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to obtain the devices."

For a full list of local governments and community partners receiving devices, visit dhcd.maryland.gov/Documents/PressReleases/2023-OSB-Device-Awards.pdf.

For more information on the Office of Statewide Broadband, visit dhcd.maryland.gov/Broadband.



Red berries make a colorful display at Schrom Hills Park.

Teen Takeover Program Provides Space For Connection and Fun

by Emily Jacob

Step into the vibrant atmosphere of the Greenbelt Youth Center on a Friday night, and you'll be greeted by the sight of energetic teens playing games together, sharing snacks and hanging out. The contagious enthusiasm and excitement might just make you wish you could relive your own youth.

The Teen Takeover program was created in 2021 to provide something for the 12- to 17-year age group, as most recreation programs tend to be aimed toward elementary and middle school-aged kids, or have to do with specific sports.

"We really wanted to set up a program to reach out to the teenagers in the Greenbelt area, and just give them a space where they could play games with one another, interact with peers in their area, get to know each other and just come out and have an escape from school, from home, just come to a place where they can have a good time," said Greenbelt Recreation employee Jerrold Joyner.

The program usually consists of free play, and the Center is taken over by teens for the night. They are entertained with game-room games such as ping pong and foosball, and camp games like kickball and dodgeball. There are usually snacks and music, sometimes movies, and even special events depending on what's going on in the community. On Friday, December 1, the group visited the tree lighting at the Roosevelt Center together.

Around the holidays they plan their own special events, like Halloween and Christmas parties. Those include themed games and events like trivia and other contests where the teens can win prizes. For their Christmas party on December 15 they planned a "Pin the Red Nose on the Reindeer" game and an ugly sweater contest.

The program has become a huge hit with a core group of 15 to 25 of the same returning teens each week. AJ Sesay, Youth Center coordinator, believes the same teens keep coming back. "It's homey to them and they feel comfortable enough to be able to come out and express themselves



Greenbelt Unit #136, American Legion Auxiliary visits the Police Station and presents the Greenbelt Police Department with funds to assist with Shop With A Cop. Pictured from left are Kathy Gigliotti, unit president; Elizabeth Rice, executive committee member; Officer Erick Alvarez; and Sandi Dutton, past unit president.

PHOTO BY RICARDO DENNIS

while also having fun," he said.

When asked what they like most about the programs, Kai Waters and Orlando Galban, two regular attendees, said they just enjoy being there and hanging out. Waters especially enjoys the variety of sports and activities, and Galban looks forward to the holiday parties.

Waters has been coming to the program since the day it began, but expresses that "it really got running this year." He and a more recent attendee, Xavier Conteh, agree that one of their favorite parts is playing all the different games with everyone.

Galban and Noel Clendenen, both more recent regular attendees, enjoy the social aspect of the program the most. Galban likes the opportunity to see friends from school outside of school and Clendenen also likes sitting behind the desk and socializing with the staff.

Joyner says his favorite part about working the program is

meeting the kids and forming bonds with each of them. "A lot of them have been coming for years now, some from the very start. It's always fun to interact with them ... and just give them the space to have fun," he says.

Teen Takeover follows the public-school calendar, so the program skips Fridays that fall on school breaks and goes on pause for the summer. Otherwise, the program takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday.

A Youth Center membership is required, but Greenbelt residents and/or students 17 and under who attend a school in Greenbelt receive free annual memberships. Registration can be completed in person at the Youth Center. More information can be found on the Teen Takeover Instagram page @TeenTakeoverGYC.

Emily Jacob is a student at the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.



Seren Lerusse, Samuel Lerusse and Kai Waters enjoy time at the Youth Center.

PHOTO BY EMILY JACOB

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



Police Blotter

Incidents reported here are from December 11 to December 17. Media advisories may be more recent and involve more serious incidents. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltd.gov. Note that the times provided are when they were reported and the incident described may have occurred earlier.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one death; one attempted suicide leading to a mental health diversion; and three calls to Child Protective Services, one including a mental health diversion. On December 12 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a mother reported her daughter missing.

Bomb Threat

On December 11 at 3:25 p.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, the Prince George's County Dispatch received a call from a subject stating an intention to go to Eleanor Roosevelt High School with a bomb. Greenbelt and Prince George's County Police responded to the school and stayed in the area until all the students were cleared without incident.

Robbery

On December 13 at 9:53 p.m. near 9100 Edmonston Road, a man was robbed at gunpoint by two men who stole his car keys; the vehicle was impounded for safekeeping.

On December 14 at 12:29 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, an armed security guard stated that two men were stealing merchandise. When the guard said she would call the police, she was dragged to the ground and punched. The two men fled in a gold-colored Honda Accord.

Assault

On December 11 at 11:29 p.m. near 2 Crescent Road, a man said he'd been assaulted. He had minor injuries but refused treatment and gave no further information.

Disorderly

On December 13 at 9:42 a.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a man reportedly began undressing and lay on top of tables. The man denied removing his clothes and said that all he did was sit inside the restaurant causing no harm.

DUI Arrests

On December 15 at 10 p.m. near 7300 Hanover Parkway, after a two-vehicle accident one of the drivers was arrested and charged with DUI.

On December 16 at 12:29 a.m. near Breezewood Drive and Springhill Lane, the driver of a vehicle that was speeding and driving erratically was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On December 12 near 43 Ridge Road, there was a case of identity theft. On December 14 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a suspect placed fake gift cards on a rack of a store so money would be sent to their account.

Theft

On December 13 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a woman found her mail opened and feared identity theft. On December 17 near 9100 Edmonston Court, a package was stolen and the incident was captured on camera.

Commercial Theft

On December 11 at 12:39 p.m. near 7600 Hanover Parkway, a man stole items. On December 12 at 2:59 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items; at 4:12 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole glasses.

On December 13 at 3:28 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, someone stole items and fled the store; at 11:19 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women stole two shopping carts of merchandise and entered a dark-colored SUV. On December 14 at 7:28 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, loss prevention detained a subject after she stole items; she was issued a trespass notice advising her not to return to the location or she would be placed under arrest. On December 16 at 3:24 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items. On December 17 at 6:37 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, an unknown suspect stole multiple items.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Seven vehicles were stolen this week: on December 11 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 2019 Honda Accord (Md. 9FF1868), and near 6000 Springhill Drive, a black 2012 Yamaha FV8 motorcycle; on December 13 near 157 Westway, a 2019 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 2EK0132), and near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a 2019 Hyundai Tucson (Md. 2FA1220); on December 14 near 6100 Breezewood Court, a 2002 Honda Accord (Md. 4ER2445); on December 15 near 6001 Cherrywood Court, a 2020 Toyota RAV4 (Md. 4EF4273); and on

December 17 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a black Toyota Highlander (Md. 4DL4134).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

Two Hyundais were found and impounded: a 2014 Elantra on December 11 near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive and a 2016 Sonata on December 11 near 5900 Cherrywood Lane.

On December 13 near Greenbelt Road and Lakecrest Drive, an officer noticed a vehicle running with window and ignition damage; the car was stolen from Bowie.

On December 13 near 7600 Greenbelt Road, a vehicle was on fire and Greenbelt Fire Department responded; the vehicle was stolen from Prince George's County.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On December 13 near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a Hyundai Accent was found with window and ignition damage. On December 13 near 5300 S Center Drive, a Kia Optima had a damaged window and ignition.

Theft from Auto

On December 11 near 6400 Ivy Lane, an Amazon truck was broken into but nothing was reported stolen, and at 6:40 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Court, someone was breaking into a vehicle but fled before the police arrived. On December 13 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a backpack went missing from an unlocked car. Tags were stolen December 13 near 6998 Hanover Parkway and December 14 near 9300 Edmonston Road. There were multiple thefts from autos on December 15 near 7800 Mandan Road.

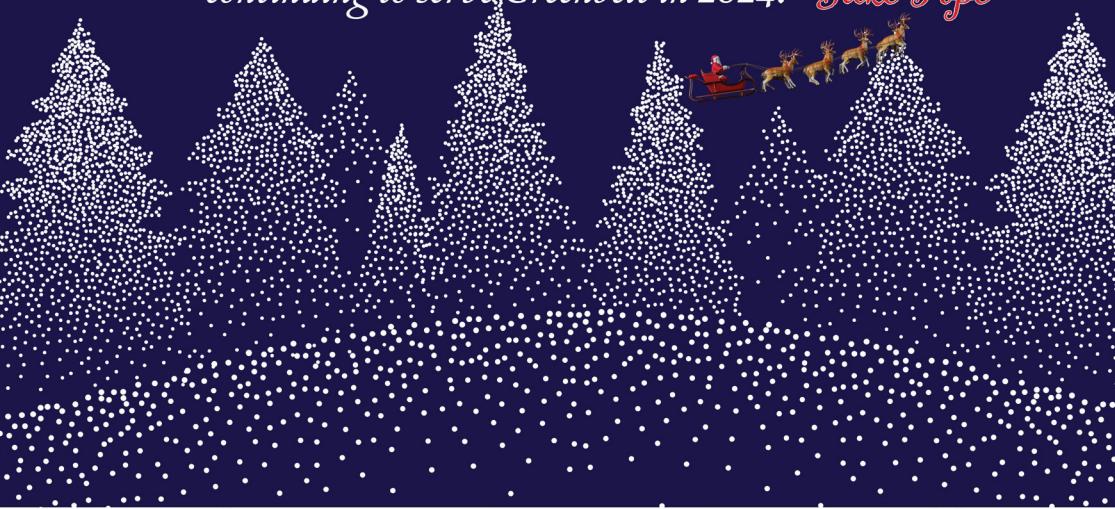
Vandalism to Auto

On December 13 near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a Toyota had windshield damage and the car was spray painted. On December 15 near 8020 Greenbelt Station Parkway, the door handles on a Hyundai Elantra were damaged. On December 17 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a Hyundai Sonata was damaged by a blunt object.



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!!

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to continuing to serve Greenbelt in 2024. ~Silke Pope~



Golden Age Luncheon



Golden Agers enjoy the holiday buffet, including Sharon Miller and Donna Peterson on left. On the right wearing Christmas lights are Judy Dixon, hospitality coordinator, and Mary Hooper.



Ladies enjoy the buffet at the Golden Age Club luncheon: from left, Jane Huntington, Rita Sayer, Doxie Prendergast and Marti Galvin, second vice president.



A table full of revelers: in the foreground are Don Rich; Suze Marley, program coordinator (standing); and Judy Parker, president.

- Photos by Sandy Lee



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Holiday Publication Deadlines - Ads

The News Review office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1. Submission deadlines will be two days early:

Display and Classified Ads that are new and/or need to be paid for up front should be in no later than noon on Saturday, December 23 and 30. Billed ads updated weekly should be in by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 26 and January 2 respectively. Early submission is much appreciated.

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



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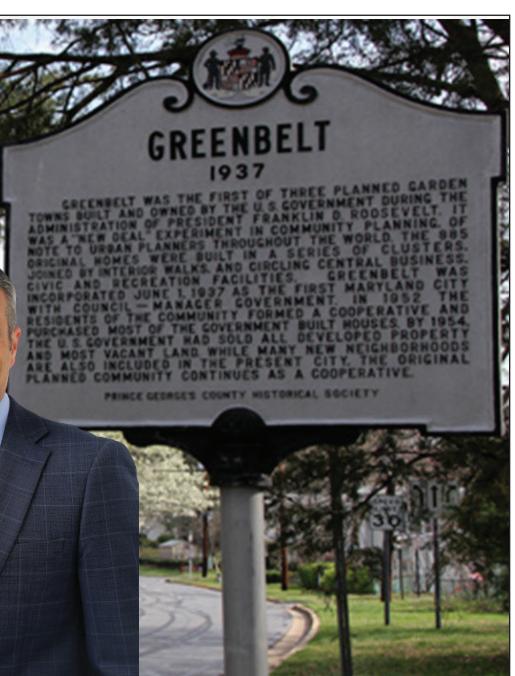
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Tool Lending Library Meets Community Needs, Seeks to Grow

by Ben Wolf

Since relocating to the Granite Building in Roosevelt Center, the Greenbelt MakerSpace Tool Lending Library has seen success but is continuously seeking to grow in numbers.

The MakerSpace has many tools ranging from hand and power tools to electrical, automotive, yard, kitchen and household tools and much more. The most popular item that customers rent out is the carpet cleaner, according to library volunteer Julia May.

"People come in here, and they're like, 'Wow, I didn't know that there was something like this around here. It's so useful,'" said May.

There is an online inventory of available tools on the library website, tools.greenbeltmakers.org. While the library has a large inventory, if there is a tool that a customer wants but the library doesn't have, there is a wish list available to put requests down.

"Most customers express how it's convenient, when instead of buying a \$300 appliance that they'll only use once, they can just come in and rent a used one," said May. The MakerSpace also receives a lot of its products through donations. In November, the library received two donations from community members.

Barrett Bedford-Dillow recently borrowed a wet saw from the tool lending library when he was redoing his bathroom. He agrees with May that it's a fantastic community resource that saves folks from having to purchase and store every tool they need and particularly ones they might use only once or twice. Last year, when he was cubmaster of Greenbelt's Pack 202, Bedford-Dillow borrowed a bandsaw and drill press from the library to help the young scouts create their



Volunteers Needed

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is seeking volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is down the outside stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN WOLF

An array of tools ready for use at the tool lending library

pinewood derby cars at their construction workshops.

To rent items from the tool library, one must become a member. The membership fee is on a sliding scale of \$50, \$60 or \$70 based on one's income. It is encouraged that a customer knows how to use the item they are renting, but if they need a refresher, the volunteers will help.

The MakerSpace wants to increase its membership, and its sliding-scale membership fee is a factor it takes pride in, making it cost-effective for its customers. The MakerSpace also has a social media presence with Facebook, where they promote events, hours of operation and the library itself. They have also run advertisements in the Greenbelt News Review.

The library is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Throughout November and halfway through December, the library has had 36 visitors, lending out items to nine of those customers.

"We got a lot more people when the Greenbelt Farmers Market was open," said May.

The MakerSpace is also continuing to look for more volunteers to serve as librarians and for money donations to open for multiple days of the week and longer hours. Links to sign up or to donate are on their website.

Ben Wolf is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.

Call for Sports News

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?

We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Music and Art Abound At Next Artful Afternoon

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to welcome the new year with an afternoon of free music and art activities. The next monthly Artful Afternoon event will be held on Sunday, January 7 in the ground floor east space at the Community Center. From 1 to 2 p.m. or from 2 to 3 p.m., create ornate modeled flower magnets out of Sculpey clay with Community Center Artist-in-Residence Gina Mai Denn. All materials will be provided.

At 3 p.m., enjoy a special family concert with the world-class Relic Ensemble, a baroque chamber orchestra. Advance registration is recommended for the workshop. Sign up online at bit.



PHOTO BY JOHN LACKO

The Relic Ensemble

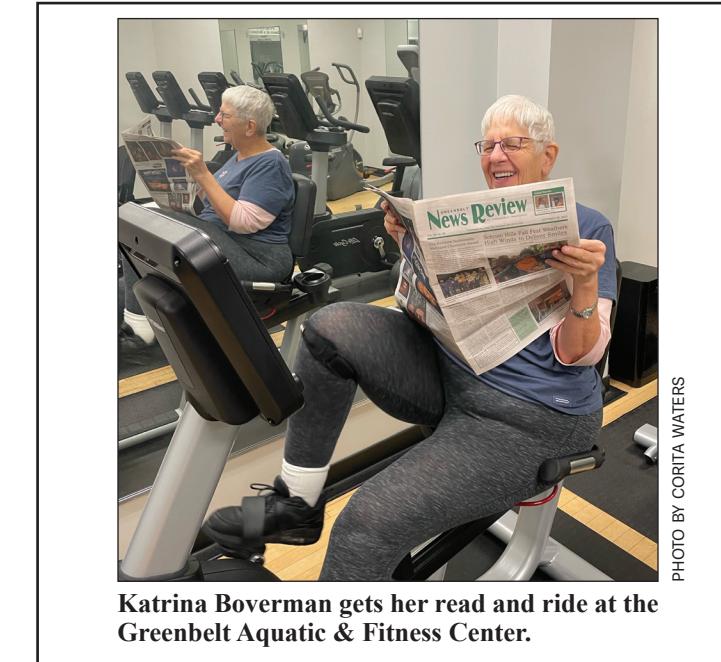


PHOTO BY CORITA WATERS

Katrina Boverman gets her read and ride at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center.

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Season's Greetings from the City of Greenbelt

Each year at this time we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. As 2023 draws to a close, the City Council, City employees, and members of Council's Advisory Boards and Committees wish all citizens a safe and joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

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9/19/82 - 11/26/23

In memory of our beloved council member.

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*BOLD DENOTES MILESTONE

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Tim George, *Asst. City Manager*
Anne Marie Belton

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Kevin Simpson, *Economic Development Manager*

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Captain Mark Sagan
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Brian Townsend, *Asst. Director*

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Irelisse Fernandez

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Gregory Gaines

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Johnnie Guy

Sharmise Hawkins-Graham

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Ronald Joyner

Scott Kaiser (30 Years)

Samantha Keiffine (5 Years)

Abby Kipke

Isaiah Law

Arran Leatherly (5 Years)

Terra Magnotto

Richard Millien Rondon

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Terri Ocampo

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